

A GENERAL STATE OF THE WHITEHAVEN DISPENSARY, For the Year 1793.

the Denomination of its Objects, we are impelled by the instinctive Propensities of our common NATURE, the unerring Dictates of REASON, and the consolatory, though positive, Precepts of RELIGION.

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Actuated by such Motives, we happily experience the Consciousness not only of indulging the highly grateful Sensations, but also of sulfilling the indispensable Duties of Humanity: Hence the Wish and Endeavour to relieve the Miserable are involuntarily effused and solicitously attempted.

These brief philanthropic Sentiments will be deemed especially applicable to that peculiar Species of CHARITY, which (exclusive of several useful Appendages) averts, mitigates, or removes from the Abodes of Penury the Sufferings of Sickness, or of still more painful accidental

Misfortune.

Of the Chronic Cases which have been admitted this Year, those of Rheumatism and Indigestion were the chief; the mild State of the Winter and Spring (only two Days interrupted by Frost) rarely inducing any inflammatory Affection; or aggravating the natural Consequences of Age and Imbecillity.—To the acute, epidemic Diseases of Children, as remarkably prevalent, our Attention hath been principally directed. Sincerely do we deplore their Fatality, and the Disregard of Parents in preventing it. The first and most interesting was the Measles: a Contagion which had not obtained here these seven Years. Two Children were unexpectedly seized with it in the Month of June: the Symptoms of the Younger required no particular Assistance; but those of the Eldest became

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very active and dangerous. Accurately tracing the Source of this Disease, we found the Family had lately removed from Carlifle, where it then generally and potently raged. The warm and temperate State of the Weather, during the Summer and Autumn, happily rendered this destructive Malady of Children singularly favourable, and effectually promoted every curative Expedient: not One of 262 Cases suffering a fatal Termination. In those Patients who, a little advanced in Life, were confequently liable to more acute and alarming pulmonic Symptoms, a Recovery, though finally perfect, was, with Difficulty, tediously accomplished. The principal medical Regards, under such Circumstances, have been chiefly confined to obviate the general Tendency to Inflammation, and especially that powerful Determination to the Lungs, which, peculiarly characterizing the Disease, always occasions its Uncertainty and Danger. With these Views, repeated large Blood-lettings, and the Application of Blisters were, when the Symptoms became violent, remarkably beneficial. SALINE and ANTIMONIAL Preparations have been prescribed with considerable Efficacy, wherever a febrile Tendency gave the Indication; and mucilaginous Pectorals to mitigate the frequent, very troublesome catarrhal Irritations. The Regimen of the Sick was also, with the greatest Utility, strictly governed. Diluent and demulcent Articles liberally administered, and a State of moderate

moderate and equable Perspiration, by Means the least stimulant, generally promoted; the exciting influence of

Cold being cautiously guarded against.

In the Beginning of November, the SMALL Pox were introduced into a populous and confined Situation, by a Child from Liverpool. The Eruptions, as numerous, became rather confluent, and a remarkable Degree of paralytic Languor long protracted his Recovery. From this Circumstance, and the Prevalence of the Disease in a neighbouring Village, the Benefit refulting from the Practice of INOCULATION was every where strenuously inculcated; especially as this Contagion had not generally prevailed fince the Summer of 1790. But, so determinately averse were the lower Class of People to this Proposal, that only 135 Children have been permitted to comply with it. All of whom experienced a very distinct and benign Species. The total Number of Persons, inoculated by the Surgeons in Town, not exceeding 376.—A few of these savourable Cases were preceded by violes t Convulsions, and the Eruptions did not appear before the 15th or 18th Day.—This Inattention to the artificial and preservative Mode of communicating the Disease necessarily increased and extended its natural destructive Virulence, the Frequency invariably augmenting the Power of it. Similar in a general View to the Virgilian FAMA " Vires acquirit eundo," or to all other Contagions infesting

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festing crowded and unwholesome Habitations, it obtained an Influence more banefully malignant. In Proof of this Affertion it appears that the Children who lately fuffered by this Epidemic, form the largest Proportion in the Number of Admissions: One single Charles-street Cellar being deprived, in ten Days, of three of its Inhabitints: the general Mortality in 167 amounting to 26 Children; and the total Deaths in this Disease, taken from the Chapel Registers, * to 137.—Of the medical Treatment it has been observed, That, as in the mild and regular SMALL Pox, Nature solicits no Affistance, so in the confluent and putrid the best Aids of Art generally prove inefficacious: We are, however, of Opinion, that excepting in young Subjects, where the fuitable Remedies can never be punctually exhibited, considerable Advantage may be derived from them. Several Cases have occurred of the most malignant Tendency, which by the Interposition of tonic, cordial, and antiseptic Articles, i. e. the Bark, Mineral Acids, Opiates, and Wine, the Pustules assumed a more benign Appearance, and the Event

* St. Nicholas's	70
Trinity	34
St. James's	
Meeting House in High-street	10
Mr. Hogarth's Chapel	4

Event has been unexpectedly propitious. These Expedients, copiously administered, are especially requisite where numerous, minute, and petechial Eruptions, scarce exceeding the Surface of the Skin, accompanied with extreme Debility, indicate a State of virulent Putrescency.—To prevent the dangerous Effects of the secondary Fever, which arises from the Absorption of the variolous Matter, it will be always necessary to open the fully sup-

purated Pustules.

With Regard to the Influence of acute, contagious Maladies, it may be proper to observe, that unavoidably connected, by our commercial Engagements, with Ireland and other Countries, we frequently suffer their prevailing EPIDEMICS. In Consequence, at different Periods, a few solitary, and unfortunately for the most Part satal Cases occurring in small, and inconvenient Houses, at an advanced Stage of the Disease, have been admitted. The general Devastations of such Fevers were, however, happily suppressed and prevented by an exact Fulfillance of every requisite Precaution and Injunction.

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[†] Coinciding with the above Sentiment, it was publicly announced that the late alarming pestilential Calamity, which so dreadfully ravaged the Metropolis of America, might probably not only have been limited in its Extent, but mirigated in its Malignancy, by an early and sedulous Attention to its primary Introduction and destructive Effects. A Disease whose baneful Virulence Humanity must ever affectionately deplore. Similar to the distressful Events of the preceding Century, (the Records of which we peruse with

To the various PROPHYLACTICS, enumerated in our former REPORTS, and afterwards separately distributed, may be added, from an Authority highly respectable, a Practice in the NAVY oft usefully adopted, viz. "The Explosion of Boles of Gun-powder combined with Vinegar, in contagious Situations, effectually precluding the Access of the external Air."

The Number of Applications to the surgical and MIDWIFERY Departments of this CHARITY will further, and best, demonstrate its Expediency: the latter, we now reluctantly intimate, are admitted with considerable Dissibility; the Annual Subscription List having continued, from many unavoidable Circumstances, for

several Years, to gradually reduce.

To these, the proper Occupations of a DISPENSARY, was annexed (to the singular Honour and Advantage of this Age and Kingdom) a Subject highly interesting to the Community, that of Suspended Animation. The Annals of the ROYAL HUMANE SOCIETY, established in London for the laudable Purpose of exploring its Doctrines, and extending its Utility, incontestibly prove that the Vital Principle might remain long after

Horror and Solicitude) it forcibly inculcates, and amply exemplifies, the Ovidian Maxim and Mandate; a well adapted Motto to this important Subject, equally applicable to the PREVENTION as to the CURE of Disease;

"Principiis obsta: sero Medicina paratur, Cum Mala per longas convaluere moras."

after each positive Assurance of it had been some Time apparently extinguished. The practical and theoretic Sentiments of the Benevolent and Ingenious were earnestly requested, and the Modes of Treatment, best enabled to restore the interrupted Functions, universally adopted. By these Means, our Hopes and Endeavours may be rendered perfectly successful. Even under those unfortunate Circumstances where Judgment and Assiduity are exerted with scarce probable Efficacy, the Opportunity of employing such Means, variously diversified, must be-

come a Source of highly consolative Reflections.

It may here, perhaps, be not intrusively suggested, that the Measures recommended, particularly the Fumigating Apparatus, have been equally beneficial in many truly alarming Affections; especially those of Apoplexy, or wherever Respiration and Sensibility were manifestly suspended; as in Cases of apparent sudden Death, from internal and inexplicable Causes. They might also prove useful in hernial Obstructions, and States of otherwise insuperable Constipation of Bowels; the Vapour of aromatic Herbs, as deemed more purely stimulant, being always substituted for that of Tobacco, except in those latter Diseases where peculiar and powerful Sedatives and Relaxants are eligible.

Having thus briefly displayed the general Views and Events of this Medical and Surgical Establishment,

it appears folely necessary to intimate,

That these charitable Exertions, which so especially meliorate the Condition of the Indigent, exciting their ample Essuions of respectful Gratitude, and essectually promote the Salubrity of this Situation, are best qualified to exalt and dignity Humanity: Whilst they induce the most acceptable Feelings and Reflections—will, when this checkered Scene has accomplished its various beneficent Revolutions, certainly secure an Happiness not less exquisite in Degree, than permanent in Duration.

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An ACCOUNT of the PATIENTS admitted,	from
June 10, 1793, to June 9, 1794.	
Recommended and Registered, (of whom 781 were	
visited in their respective Abodes)	1563
Midwifery Cases	120
Children prepared for the Small Pox	186
Persons inoculated for the Small Pox	
Trivial Incidents	135
Trivial incidents	1244
	3248
Patients remaining upon the Books, June 10, 1793,	
i attents remaining upon the books, June 10, 1793,	142
	3390
	337
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Cured	1598
Relieved	28
Incurable	16
Irregular	
Dead	54
Remain upon the Books	144
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	1840

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Total Number of PATIENTS admitted fince the Institution of this CHARITY, June 30, 1783.

		The second second
In 1783	2057	
In 1784	2644	
In 1785	3034	·
In 1786	2708	Cured 17771
In 1787	2521	Relieved . 613
In 1788	2129	Incurable . 228
In 1789	5996	Irregular 26
In 1790	3721	Dead 573
In 1791	2672	Remain on the Books 144
In 1792	2806	Special distribution of
In 1793	3248	19355
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	tients	admitted (as by the
preceding List)		33536
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Registered Patients	• •	• • • • 19355
Midwifery Objects		• • • • 952
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Total Subscriptions £ 99 In the Charity Box . 1 Cash Lent . 100 Interest of Do 5 Balance with the Treasurer last Year . 60 Interest of do 1 Total £.267 Disbursements . 111 Balance in Favour of the Charity \$\frac{1}{2} \int \frac{1}{2}	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	DISBURSEMENTS. Drugs and Medicines . 35 1 0 Midwifery Expences . 15 15 0 Printing and Stationary 7 5 1 Wine 1 15 2 Spirit for Tinctures . 1 4 6. Reward in a fortunate Case of suspended Ani mation Coals, Candles, Herbs, Attendance, Carriage of Drugs, Phials, Leather, 9 14 6 and sundry small Articles Apothecary's Salary and 40 10 0 Total . £.111 12 9
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Blank Letters of Recommendation may be had at the Dispensary.

All Persons, disposed to contribute any Sum of Money, or other Personal Estate, by Will, to this Charity, are requested to do it in the following Manner.—" I give and bequeath to "A. B. and C. D. the Sum of upon Trust, "that they do pay the same to the Treasurer of the White-"HAVEN DISPENSARY; which Sum of

"defire may be applied towards carrying on the benevolent De-

" figns of the faid Charity."

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A SYSTEMATIC ARRANGEMENT OF THE PRECEDING DISEASES,

WITH THEIR RESPECTIVE EVENTS.

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I.	Under 2 Years	Between 2 & 5 Years	5 %	10 & 15	15 & 20	20 & 30	30 & 40	40 & 50	50 & 60	60 & 70	70 & 80	80 & 90	Cured.	Relieved	Incurable.	Dead.	Remaining upon the Books.	Total.
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	UNDER 2 YEARS.	BETWEEN 2 & 5 YEARS.	5 & 10	10&15	15 & 20	20 & 30	30 & 40	40 & 50	50 & 60	60 & 70	70 & 80		D 1	Total
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Total	38 0	135 0	222 3	195 2	134 6	222 14	212 10	184 17	78 10	45 6	15 0	1480	77	1557

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